

International News

- India-Japan Bilateral Air Exercise 'Veer Guardian-2026':** The Indian Air Force (IAF) and Japan Air Self-Defence Force (JASDF) commenced the 2nd edition of the 14-day bilateral air combat exercise at Air Force Station Jodhpur, Rajasthan.
- Thailand Visa-Free Policy Extended:** Thailand's Ministry of Interior officially announced 30-day visa-free entry for Indian ordinary passport holders to boost tourism and trade relations.
- Global Dryland Congress 2026:** Organized in New Delhi (Sept 10–12) at the National Agricultural Science Complex, focusing on desertification, sustainable land management, and dryland farming resilience.

National News

- Cabinet Approves ₹20,800+ Crore Rail Multitracking:** The Union Cabinet approved eight multitracking railway projects spanning nine states to boost freight density, operational speed, and regional connectivity.
- UIDAI Launches Face Authentication SDK:** The Unique Identification Authority of India released a new Face Authentication Software Development Kit, enabling seamless remote authentication and solving geofencing issues for overseas Indians.

Economics, Banking & Finance

- IFC \$1 Billion Credit Support for MSMEs:** The International Finance Corporation (IFC) provided \$1 billion in facility funds (\$500M directly to SIDBI, \$500M via SIDBI international syndicate) to expand credit for small enterprises across automotive, textile, and electronics sectors.

- ADB Mandate for Madhya Pradesh Renewable Energy:** Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed its first Transaction Advisory Services (TAS) mandate in India with the Government of Madhya Pradesh to mobilize \$1 billion in private investment via Public-Private Partnerships (PPP).
- Niyo Secures GIFT City PSP License:** Fintech firm Niyo obtained a Payment Service Provider license from the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) to operate cross-border financial services out of GIFT City, Gujarat.

Defense & Security News

- India-Sri Lanka Bilateral Defence MoU:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake inked MoUs in Colombo covering L70 Anti-Aircraft Gun upgrades for the Sri Lankan Air Force and virtually inaugurated 3 Bailey Bridges built by Indian Armed Forces.
- Indian Army Establishes 'AASHVAST' Lab:** The Indian Army set up the *Assessment and Analysis of Electronic Systems Hardware for Vulnerabilities and Security Threats* (AASHVAST) facility at DG EME Headquarters, New Delhi, to scan military drones for foreign and unauthorized hardware components.

Government Schemes & MoUs

Scheme / MoU	Stakeholders	Objective & Financial Scope
PM-SETU ITI Upgradation	Ministry of Skill Development	Approved ₹735.70 crore for 3 ITI clusters in Rajasthan,



Scheme / MoU	Stakeholders	Objective & Financial Scope
		UP, and Telangana.
DFPD-FCI Modernisation MoU	DFPD & Food Corporation of India	Operational efficiency agreement for FY27 food grain storage and supply chain.
NALCO-EGA Smelter Tech MoU	NALCO (India) & EGA (UAE)	Technology licensing using DX+ Ultra tech for 0.5 MTPA smelter expansion in Angul, Odisha.

Appointments, Awards & Honors

- Vinaya Prakash Singh Re-elected to APPU:** Re-elected for a second consecutive 4-year term as Secretary-General of the Asian-Pacific Postal Union (APPU).
- President's Colour Presented to Goa Police:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah presented the prestigious President's Colour to Goa Police in Panaji in recognition of 80+ years of exemplary maritime and law enforcement service.
- Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Jan Seva Puraskar 2026:** Awarded to the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), accepted by Chairman Kishor Makwana.

Sports News

- Pickleball World Cup 2026 (Da Nang, Vietnam):** India finished **4th overall** in the medal standings, securing 41 medals (7 Gold, 17 Silver, 17 Bronze).
- 19th International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO 2026):** Indian student contingent felicitated by the Ministry of Earth Sciences after winning a historic 9 total medals.

Art, Culture & Festivals

- Curtain Raiser for 11th Ayurveda Day:** Union Ayush Ministry kicked off nationwide campaigns promoting holistic preventive healthcare and traditional medicine.

Important Days, Birth & Death Anniversaries

- World Suicide Prevention Day (September 10):** Organized by the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) and WHO to raise global awareness and foster community support.
- Birth Anniversary — Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant (10 September 1887):** Eminent freedom fighter, Bharat Ratna awardee (1957), first Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, and former Union Home Minister who established the Hindi language promotion frameworks.

1. Defence & Cybersecurity

Q1. The Indian Army established a dedicated specialized laboratory named 'AASHVAST' at the DG EME Headquarters in New Delhi. What is the primary function of this laboratory?

- Testing stealth capabilities of indigenous fighter jets
- Detecting vulnerabilities, security threats, and unvetted Chinese hardware components in drones

C) Developing quantum cryptography algorithms for naval communication

D) Auditing satellite payload telemetry systems

- **Answer: B) Detecting vulnerabilities, security threats, and unvetted Chinese hardware components in drones**
- **Detailed Explanation:** The Indian Army (IA) established a specialized hardware testing laboratory named '**AASHVAST**'—which stands for *Assessment and Analysis of Electronic Systems Hardware for Vulnerabilities and Security Threats*—at the Directorate General of Electronics and Mechanical Engineering (DG EME) headquarters in New Delhi. The facility is built to systematically inspect, reverse-engineer, and analyze electronic circuit boards, firmware, and microchips embedded in commercial and defense unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to detect spyware, unauthorized communication backdoors, and unvetted foreign (specifically Chinese) origin components.

2. National News & Constitutional Provisions

Q2. The Ministry of Home Affairs proposed an elected UT-level governance framework for Ladakh under which proposed chapter of Article 371 of the Indian Constitution?

- A) Article 371 Chapter A
- B) Article 371 Chapter F
- C) Article 371 Chapter J
- D) Article 371 Chapter K

- **Answer: D) Article 371 Chapter K**
- **Detailed Explanation:** The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) proposed a constitutional arrangement for the Union Territory of Ladakh by introducing a dedicated **Chapter**

K under Article 371. Article 371 contains special provisions for 12 states (Articles 371A to 371J) to safeguard local land rights, indigenous cultural identity, and administrative representation. The proposed Chapter K framework aims to establish an elected UT-level body with legislative safeguards over land ownership, employment, and environmental conservation in the ecologically sensitive Himalayan region.

3. Government Schemes & Skill Development

Q3. Under the PM-SETU (Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs) scheme, the 5th National Steering Committee approved investments worth ₹735.70 crore for ITI clusters in which group of states?

- A) Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh
- B) Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Telangana
- C) Bihar, Odisha, and West Bengal
- D) Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Kerala

- **Answer: B) Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Telangana**
- **Detailed Explanation:** The 5th National Steering Committee (NSC) meeting under the PM-SETU (Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs) initiative approved strategic capital investments totaling **₹735.70 crore**. These funds are designated for modernizing Industrial Training Institute (ITI) clusters across three states: **Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Telangana**. The PM-SETU scheme focuses on upgrading traditional vocational training hubs into high-tech skill centers equipped with Industry 4.0 labs, artificial intelligence tools, and advanced



robotics modules aligned with current industrial requirements.

4. International Alliances & Multilateral Summits

Q4. Under India's 2026 BRICS Chairship, where was the annual BRICS Leaders' Summit hosted from 12–13 September 2026?

- A) New Delhi
- B) Bengaluru
- C) Mumbai
- D) Varanasi

• **Answer: A) New Delhi**

• **Detailed Explanation:** India held the Chairship of BRICS for 2026 and hosted the BRICS Summit in **New Delhi** on 12–13 September 2026. The summit brought together heads of state and delegates from original and expanded member countries (including Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the UAE). Key discussions centered around strengthening multilateral trade in local currencies, reforming global governance institutions, climate finance, and expanding supply chain resilience across the Global South.

5. Banking & Fintech Regulations

Q5. Fintech company RNFI Services Ltd secured in-principle authorization from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as which entity under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007?

- A) Small Finance Bank (SFB)
- B) Payment Aggregator-Physical (PA-P)
- C) Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) Platform
- D) Credit Information Company (CIC)

• **Answer: B) Payment Aggregator-Physical (PA-P)**

• **Detailed Explanation:** RNFI Services Ltd received in-principle authorization from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to function as a **Payment Aggregator-Physical (PA-P)** pursuant to the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007. This regulatory approval allows the company to deploy physical point-of-sale (PoS) acceptance solutions and offline merchant acquiring services across its merchant networks in rural and semi-urban areas.

6. Important International Days

Q6. What is the triennial theme and call to action for 'World Suicide Prevention Day' observed globally on September 10?

- A) Theme: "Mental Health is a Universal Human Right" | Call: "Act Today"
- B) Theme: "Changing the Narrative on Suicide" | Call: "Start the Conversation"
- C) Theme: "Creating Hope Through Action" | Call: "Break the Silence"
- D) Theme: "Connect, Communicate, Care" | Call: "Listen with Empathy"

• **Answer: B) Theme: "Changing the Narrative on Suicide" | Call: "Start the Conversation"**

• **Detailed Explanation:** **World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD)** is observed annually on **September 10** by the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) alongside the World Health Organization (WHO). For the 2024–2026 triennium, the global theme is **"Changing the Narrative on Suicide"**, accompanied by the central call to action **"Start the Conversation"**. The objective is to reduce social stigma, encourage open discourse on psychological distress, and

prioritize accessible mental healthcare infrastructure.

7. Birth Anniversaries & Historical Leaders

Q7. Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, whose birth anniversary is celebrated on September 10, served as the first Chief Minister of which Indian state and was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1957?

- A) Bihar
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Uttar Pradesh
- D) Rajasthan

- **Answer: C) Uttar Pradesh**
- **Detailed Explanation:** Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant (born 10 September 1887 in Khoont village near Almora) was a prominent freedom fighter and statesman. He served as the Premier of the United Provinces (1937–1939, 1946–1950) and subsequently became the first Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh (1950–1954). He later held the office of Union Home Minister (1955–1961). Pant played a pivotal role in enforcing the Abolition of Zamindari System and establishing Hindi as an official administrative language. He was awarded India's highest civilian honor, the Bharat Ratna, in 1957.

8. Freedom Movement & Martyrdom Anniversaries

Q8. Revolutionary freedom fighter Jatindranath Mukherjee ('Bagha Jatin') fought his final battle against British forces at Chasakhanda near Balasore before succumbing to injuries on 10 September 1915. With which organization was he associated?

- A) Anushilan Samiti

B) Jugantar

C) Ghadar Party

D) Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)

- **Answer: B) Jugantar**
- **Detailed Explanation:** Jatindranath Mukherjee, popularly known as 'Bagha Jatin', was the principal leader of the Jugantar party in Bengal. He masterminded the Indo-German Plot during World War I to ignite an armed revolution across India with foreign arms shipments. On September 9, 1915, Jatin and four comrades engaged in a gunfight against a armed police detachment on the banks of the Burhibalam River at Chasakhanda near Balasore, Odisha. Seriously wounded during the battle, he died on 10 September 1915 at the Balasore hospital.

9. Awards & State Police Honors

Q9. Union Home Minister Amit Shah presented the prestigious 'President's Colour' award to which state police force during a ceremony in Panaji?

- A) Kerala Police
- B) Goa Police
- C) Odisha Police
- D) Punjab Police

- **Answer: B) Goa Police**
- **Detailed Explanation:** Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah presented the President's Colour to the Goa Police at a ceremonial parade held in Panaji, Goa. The President's Colour is the highest honor bestowed upon any military or police unit in India in recognition of exceptional service, bravery, and institutional dedication over extended periods. Goa Police received the

award in recognition of over eight decades of coastal security management, public safety maintaining, and law enforcement excellence.

10. MoUs & Regional Defence Ties

Q10. During Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's bilateral visit to Colombo, India signed three MoUs on defence equipment and training with which maritime neighbor?

- A) Maldives
- B) Seychelles
- C) Sri Lanka
- D) Mauritius

- **Answer: C) Sri Lanka**
- **Detailed Explanation:** India and Sri Lanka signed three bilateral Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) in Colombo during Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's official visit. The agreements cover the supply of defence equipment, capacity-building programs, joint military training exercises, and real-time maritime intelligence sharing. The collaboration reinforces India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy and Vision SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) to ensure maritime stability in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

11. Economics & Off-shore Financial Infrastructure

Q11. Fintech platform Niyo secured a Payment Service Provider (PSP) licence from the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) to operate out of which financial zone?

- A) GIFT City, Gandhinagar
- B) BKC, Mumbai
- C) Cyber City, Gurugram

D) Financial District, Hyderabad

- **Answer: A) GIFT City, Gandhinagar**
- **Detailed Explanation:** Consumer fintech platform Niyo secured a Payment Service Provider (PSP) licence from the IFSCA to operate out of GIFT City (Gujarat International Finance Tec-City) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. This regulatory license allows Niyo to offer cross-border retail banking solutions, multi-currency accounts, remittance services, and international payment products directly to outbound Indian travelers and international clients under unified offshore regulations.

12. MoUs & Public Distribution Governance

Q12. The Department of Food & Public Distribution (DFPD) signed an MoU for FY 2026-27 with which public sector corporation to modernize food grain management and supply chain logistics?

- A) NAFED
- B) Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC)
- C) Food Corporation of India (FCI)
- D) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)

- **Answer: C) Food Corporation of India (FCI)**
- **Detailed Explanation:** The Department of Food & Public Distribution (DFPD) under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution executed an annual Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for FY 2026-27 with the Food Corporation of India (FCI). The MoU establishes performance benchmarks for digitizing grain procurement, implementing automated silo storage infrastructure, reducing transit losses, and optimizing

buffer stock management under the PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY).

13. Sports & National Track & Field Records

Q13. Indian athlete Tanya Chaudhary set a new national record in which athletics discipline?

- A) Javelin Throw
- B) Shot Put
- C) Hammer Throw
- D) Discus Throw

• **Answer: C) Hammer Throw**

• **Detailed Explanation:** Indian field athlete **Tanya Chaudhary** set a new national record in the **women's Hammer Throw** event. Her record-breaking performance surpassed previous national benchmarks, positioning her as a primary medal contender for upcoming international events, including the Asian Games.

14. International Energy Geography & Chokepoints

Q14. Increased military tensions between Iran and the United States in September 2026 centered on which strategic maritime chokepoint connecting the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman?

- A) Strait of Malacca
- B) Bab-el-Mandeb Strait
- C) Strait of Hormuz
- D) Suez Canal

• **Answer: C) Strait of Hormuz**

• **Detailed Explanation:** Diplomatic and military tensions between Iran and the US escalated around the **Strait of Hormuz**, a narrow waterway located between Oman and Iran connecting the Persian Gulf with

the Gulf of Oman. Handling approximately 20% to 30% of global petroleum liquids, any supply disruption in Hormuz directly threatens global energy markets, leading to crude price spikes and elevated shipping freight and insurance premiums for major import-dependent economies like India.

15. Art, Culture & UNESCO Heritage

Q15. Following the addition of four new cultural sites in September 2026, what is the total count of Indian landmarks on UNESCO's Tentative World Heritage List?

- A) 52
- B) 65
- C) 73
- D) 81

• **Answer: C) 73**

• **Detailed Explanation:** With the addition of four new cultural submissions—*Rangpur-Sivasagar Historic Ensemble* (Assam), *Colonial Penal Settlement* (Andaman Islands), *Nicobarese Cultural Continuity* (Nicobar Islands), and *Painted Haveli Towns of Shekhawati* (Rajasthan)—India's total tally of cultural and natural sites on UNESCO's Tentative World Heritage List reached **73**. Tentative listings are a mandatory prerequisite before a heritage site can be considered for full World Heritage status.

16. Banking Appointments & RBI Governance

Q16. Who took charge as an Executive Director (ED) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on September 1, 2026?

- A) Swaminathan J.
- B) Suman Ray
- C) T. Rabi Sankar

D) Swati Sharma

- **Answer: B) Suman Ray**
- **Detailed Explanation:** Suman Ray assumed charge as Executive Director (ED) of the Reserve Bank of India. Before this elevation, Ray held senior management posts within the central bank. As ED, Ray oversees core operational portfolios including regulatory policy, financial stability monitoring, and banking supervision frameworks across commercial and cooperative banking entities.

17. Military Appointments & Women Leadership

Q17. Air Vice Marshal Shakti Sharma achieved a landmark milestone in the Indian Air Force (IAF) by becoming:

- A) The first female fighter pilot to command an operational squadron
- B) The first non-medical woman two-star officer of the IAF
- C) The first female Commander-in-Chief of a Tri-Services Command
- D) The first woman Test Pilot at the Aircraft and Systems Testing Establishment (ASTE)

- **Answer: B) The first non-medical woman two-star officer of the IAF**
- **Detailed Explanation:** Air Vice Marshal Shakti Sharma assumed office as Assistant Chief of Air Staff (Education), becoming the first non-medical woman officer in the history of the Indian Air Force to reach the two-star rank of Air Vice Marshal (AVM). Prior two-star promotions for women in the IAF were restricted to the Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) stream.

18. Health Schemes & Tele-Counselling Initiatives

Q18. India's National Tele Mental Health Programme, 'Tele-MANAS', provides 24x7 free tele-counseling services nationwide through which dedicated short-code helpline?

- A) 112
- B) 1098
- C) 14416
- D) 1930

- **Answer: C) 14416**
- **Detailed Explanation:** Launched under the National Health Mission (NHM) in October 2022, **Tele-MANAS** (*Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States*) provides free, round-the-clock psychological counseling and psychiatric referral support via its national toll-free helpline numbers **14416** and **1-800-891-4416**. Operating 53 functional cells across all 36 States and UTs, Tele-MANAS handled over 4.32 million distress calls.

19. Industrial Policy & Energy Transition

Q19. The Union Government launched a landmark financial support framework worth ₹37,500 crore to promote commercial projects in which sector?

- A) Hydrogen Fuel Cell manufacturing
- B) Coal Gasification
- C) Offshore Wind Energy Turbines
- D) Semiconductor Wafer Fabrication

- **Answer: B) Coal Gasification**
- **Detailed Explanation:** The Central Government announced financial incentives under its **₹37,500-crore Coal Gasification Scheme** to accelerate clean-coal technology adoption. The initiative provides capital subsidies and viability gap funding to public and private sector enterprises (including



major industrial conglomerates) to convert coal into syngas, methanol, dimethylether, and ammonium nitrate. Coal gasification reduces direct carbon emissions compared to traditional coal combustion while supporting India's target to gasify 100 million tonnes of coal by 2030.

20. Global Governance & Public Administration

Q20. Following a political salary framework revision, which head of government became the highest-paid political leader globally with an updated annual compensation of \$3.6million(US\$2.85 million)?

- A) Prime Minister of Japan
- B) Prime Minister of Singapore (Lawrence Wong)
- C) Chancellor of Germany
- D) Prime Minister of Australia

- **Answer: B) Prime Minister of Singapore (Lawrence Wong)**
- **Detailed Explanation:** Under a revised executive remuneration structure in Singapore, Prime Minister **Lawrence Wong's** annual remuneration was adjusted to **\$3.6 million** (approximately US\$2.85 million or ₹26.9 crore). This positioning reinforces Singapore's benchmarked public salary system, designed to attract top-tier administrative talent from the private sector and prevent institutional corruption, making its prime minister the highest-remunerated head of government globally.

21. Space Exploration & Strategic Alliances

Q21. While addressing the Global Space Summit in Paris, Prime Minister Narendra Modi re-affirmed India's goal to establish its own space

station, titled 'Bharatiya Antariksha Station' (BAS), by which target year?

- A) 2030
- B) 2035
- C) 2040
- D) 2047

- **Answer: B) 2035**

- **Detailed Explanation:** Addressing an international space audience in Paris, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterated that India is on track to set up its indigenous space station—the **Bharatiya Antariksha Station (BAS)**—by **2035**, followed by a crewed lunar landing by 2040. PM Modi highlighted France as a key partner in India's space missions since the 1960s and invited global research bodies to collaborate in developing modular orbital habitats and deep-space exploration payloads.

22. Awards & Judicial Honors

Q22. Former Chief Justice of India (CJI) Justice Dipak Misra was conferred with the Kalinga Ratna Award 2026 by which literary institution?

- A) Sahitya Akademi
- B) Sarala Sahitya Sansad
- C) Bharatiya Jnanpith
- D) Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi

- **Answer: B) Sarala Sahitya Sansad**

- **Detailed Explanation:** Former Chief Justice of India **Justice Dipak Misra** was honored with the **Kalinga Ratna Award 2026** by the Sarala Sahitya Sansad at its annual ceremony in Cuttack, Odisha. The national honor recognizes Justice Misra's constitutional jurisprudence, legal scholarship, and institutional contributions to human rights protections.

23. International Postal Organizations

Q23. Dr. Vinaya Prakash Singh was re-elected as Secretary-General of the Asian-Pacific Postal Union (APPU). Where is the headquarters of APPU located?

- A) Manila, Philippines
- B) Bangkok, Thailand
- C) Jakarta, Indonesia
- D) Geneva, Switzerland

• **Answer: B) Bangkok, Thailand**

• **Detailed Explanation:** Dr. Vinaya Prakash Singh was re-elected for a second term as Secretary-General of the **Asian-Pacific Postal Union (APPU)**, an intergovernmental organization comprising 32 member nations across the Asia-Pacific region. Headquartered in **Bangkok, Thailand**, APPU coordinates regional postal logistics, cross-border e-commerce regulatory standards, and financial inclusion channels among member post operators.

24. Sports & World Championships

Q24. India ranked 4th overall at the Pickleball World Cup 2026 in Da Nang, Vietnam. How many total medals did the Indian contingent win?

- A) 21 Medals
- B) 32 Medals
- C) 41 Medals
- D) 50 Medals

• **Answer: C) 41 Medals**

• **Detailed Explanation:** The 48-member Indian national pickleball squad finished **4th overall** among 82 competing nations at the Pickleball World Cup held in Da Nang, Vietnam. India secured a total of **41 medals** (7 Gold, 17 Silver, and 17 Bronze) across

Juniors, Open, and Masters categories, marking its strongest performance in international racket sports competitions.

25. Festivals & Cultural Architecture

Q25. Which iconic temple replica was selected as the central architectural theme for the Dagdusheth Halwai Ganpati Mandal in Pune during Ganesh Chaturthi 2026?

- A) Ram Mandir, Ayodhya
- B) Prem Mandir, Vrindavan
- C) Kashi Vishwanath Mandir, Varanasi
- D) Meenakshi Temple, Madurai

• **Answer: B) Prem Mandir, Vrindavan**

• **Detailed Explanation:** The Shreemant Dagdusheth Halwai Ganpati Trust in Pune unveiled a replica of Vrindavan's **Prem Mandir** as its main festival pavilion (*pandal*) design for the Ganesh Chaturthi festival. The structure was crafted using eco-friendly materials and detailed illumination techniques to recreate the architectural splendor of the famous Uttar Pradesh temple.

26. Clean Mobility & Sustainable Transport

Q26. Which platform was launched by NITI Aayog at the 5th e-FAST India Summit to aggregate demand for Zero-Emission Trucks (ZETs)?

- A) E-AMRIT
- B) PACT (Platform for Aggregating Clean Transport)
- C) SHOONYA Initiative
- D) FASTag-Green

• **Answer: B) PACT (Platform for Aggregating Clean Transport)**

- **Detailed Explanation:** At the 5th Electric-Freight Accelerator for Sustainable Transport (e-FAST) India Summit in New Delhi, NITI Aayog introduced **PACT (Platform for Aggregating Clean Transport)** alongside a Zero-Emission Truck (ZET) digital marketplace. The initiative aims to consolidate freight demand, reduce upfront capital costs through group procurement, and enable green financing mechanisms to transition heavy-duty commercial vehicles from diesel to electric and hydrogen powertrains.

27. Infrastructure & Railway Freight Corridors

Q27. The Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL) operationalized a key 326 km section of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) in which city of Gujarat?

- A) Ahmedabad
- B) Vadodara
- C) Surat
- D) Bharuch

• **Answer: B) Vadodara**

- **Detailed Explanation:** DFCCIL commissioned a critical 326 route-kilometer section of the **Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC)** passing through **Vadodara, Gujarat**. The WDFC runs from Dadri in Uttar Pradesh to Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) in Navi Mumbai. The operationalization of this section improves container freight movement between northern industrial hubs and western seaports by allowing heavy-haul freight trains to run at speeds up to 100 km/h without interfering with passenger train traffic.

28. Volcanology & Marine Navigation Hazards

Q28. Mount Anak Krakatau, whose volcanic ash clouds impacted regional aviation and maritime routes in the Sunda Strait, belongs to which island nation?

- A) Philippines
- B) Indonesia
- C) Japan
- D) Papua New Guinea

• **Answer: B) Indonesia**

- **Detailed Explanation:** Mount Anak Krakatau ("Child of Krakatoa") is a volcanic island situated in the **Sunda Strait** between the Indonesian islands of Java and Sumatra. Its explosive eruption released ash clouds up to 2,000 meters into the atmosphere, triggering aviation warnings and temporary maritime navigation rerouting through the strait, which serves as a key shipping route linking the Indian Ocean with the Java Sea.

29. Political History & Party Governance

Q29. Which political party announced a nationwide 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan' starting September 17 to celebrate 25 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public service?

- A) Indian National Congress
- B) Bharatiya Janata Party
- C) Aam Aadmi Party
- D) Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam

• **Answer: B) Bharatiya Janata Party**

- **Detailed Explanation:** The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) launched a month-long campaign titled '**Seva Sankalp Abhiyan**' beginning on September 17 (coinciding with PM Modi's birthday, observed as *Seva Diwas*). The initiative commemorates 25

years of Narendra Modi's public service (spanning his tenure as Chief Minister of Gujarat starting October 2001 through his tenure as Prime Minister). The campaign includes nationwide blood donation drives, environmental clean-up projects, and social welfare outreach programs.

30. Books & Authors / Nobel Laureates

Q30. Renowned author Mario Vargas Llosa, recipient of the 2010 Nobel Prize in Literature for works such as 'The Feast of the Goat' and 'Conversation in the Cathedral', belongs to which South American nation?

- A) Colombia
- B) Peru
- C) Argentina
- D) Chile

- **Answer: B) Peru**
- **Detailed Explanation:** Mario Vargas Llosa is a Peruvian novelist, essayist, and political figure who received the **2010 Nobel Prize in Literature**. Considered one of Latin America's most influential literary figures of the 20th century, his notable works include *The Time of the Hero*, *Green House*, *Conversation in the Cathedral*, and *The Feast of the Goat*. His works explore power structures, individual resistance, and political authoritarianism across Latin American history.

